
“FAITH WINS”

THE FAITH OF JOSHUA

HEBREWS 11:30

SERIES: “REAL FAITH IN AN UNREAL WORLD” (7)

WATERKLOOF BAPTIST CHURCH SERMON NOTES 09/08/2020

REV. PAUL WITTER

Introduction

The Lord is growing our faith during this Covid 19 pandemic. He is doing a work in the lives and hearts of His people ... hopefully in your life too!!

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you encounter trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Allow perseverance to finish its work, so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

■ James 1:2-4

In our series, “**Real Faith in an Unreal World**”, we have seen:

- **FAITH WAITS:** it bows before the Holy One.
Abel PRAISED God for His PROVISION for sin.
- **FAITH WALKS:** it abides in the Almighty – Psalm 91:1.
Enoch PREVAILED in God’s PRESENCE.
- **FAITH WORKS:** it accomplishes the impossible.
Noah PROVED God’s PROPHECIES by building an ark
- **FAITH WAITS:** it rests in God’s sovereign plans.
Abraham PRESUMED on God’s PROMISES and became the father of a nation.
- **FAITH WARS:** it overcomes the impossible.
Moses PERSEVERED in God’s POWER and led the people out of Egypt.

“God wants us to know that when we have Him, we have everything.”

■ A.W. Tozer

Faith wins

■ Hebrews 11:23-29 “By faith ...”

A divine encounter

The commander of the Lord’s army was a theophany (an appearance of the Lord) in the form of an angelic messenger (Calvin & others):

- Joshua was instructed to take off his sandals
- The “commander” is identified as “the Lord”
- Origen notes that Joshua knew he was God and therefore worshipped Him.

This encounter empowered Joshua’s faith.

The same awareness galvanized Philipp Melanchthon’s faith:

“If God is for us, who can be against us?”

■ Romans 8:31

God’s instructions to Joshua – Joshua 6:2-5

The effect: Joshua’s bedrock faith.

How do we overcome our Jericho's, our spiritual battles?

1. A BATTLE of Faith (Heb. 11:30; Joshua 6:2)

It was a venture of faith: they stood to lose everything BUT staked everything on the trustworthiness of God.

2. The OBEDIENCE of Faith (Joshua 6:2-5)

The man who has encountered God will always be called upon to express his faith in action and obedience.

Moses, Isaiah, the disciples, Saul, Martin Luther ... YOU?

God had given Joshua an explicit command that demanded implicit obedience.

Joshua had little room for his own plans, but endless scope for faith.

One of the greatest AXIOMS of the FAITH LIFE:

"What I am doing you do not understand now, but later you will understand."

■ John 13:7

"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world."

■ 2 Corinthians 10

3. The FOCUS of Faith: The Presence of God (Joshua 6)

The Ark of the Covenant represented the presence of God and was central in the battle.

4. The PERSEVERANCE of Faith (Joshua 6:12-15)

When shall we learn, in quiet patience and perseverance, to wait on God for our seven days ... the circle of completed time, until he gives us the possession of the promised rest, peace, and victory. Let our faith claim it, since we are the children of a God who overcomes our impossibilities. We are called to a life of faith that expects, and receives, and overcomes. Let our life be one life of faith ... faith in God!

5. The DECLARATION of Faith (Joshua 6:15,16,20)

Here was the voice of faith: an outward confession of an inward confidence in the power of God.

The very nature of faith believes it will happen before it does. Conquering faith declares itself.

Romans 10:10

Job 19:25-27

Every step was a step of appropriation: taking hold of what God had given. The climax came with a mighty shout: an expression of the inner confidence in an omnipotent God.